



Adam Garcia

Vice President Education

Report

February 2014

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

1.0 Executive-Related Activities

1.1 Committees:

Education Advisory Committee

EAC meetings are held Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in SLC 2122.

Undergraduate Student Relations Committee

Responsibilities: A forum to discuss undergraduate student issues in a broad sense at UW.

Synopsis: At the January 16 meeting, we discussed draft Terms of Reference for a Survey Advisory Board, student safety and campus closures, and Fall Reading Days. Next meeting is February 13.

1.2 Commissions:

To get in contact with either of the staff:

Andrew Clubine, Municipal Affairs Commissioner, municipal@feds.ca

Maaz Yasin, Academic Affairs Commissioner, academic@feds.ca

2.0 University-Related Activities

2.1 Committees:

Co-operative Education Council

Responsibilities: A forum to review and advice on Co-op at UW

Synopsis: At the January 21 meeting, CEC heard updates on the First Work Term Success Projects undertaken by WatCACE regarding the creation of a living-learning community for students scheduled out on their first work term and the expansion of BETS into social entrepreneurship. Further, the proposed co-op fee was discussed for the upcoming year. As students have paid off the Tatham Centre, \$25 of the co-op fee as reduced effective Winter 2014, but starting in May 2014, a 3% increase to the fee will be included. Overall, students will still see a net reduction to the co-op fee into the 2014/2015 year. Next meeting is tentatively February 18, but will likely be moved to accommodate students on Reading Week.

Senate Undergraduate Council

Responsibilities: To consider questions involving academic quality and undergraduate studies and provide recommendations to go forward to Senate

Synopsis: At the January 14 meeting, SUC, a new WatPD course for Computer Science was approved, as well as items from Arts, Engineering and Science including a new plan in Honours Chemistry – Biobased Chemistry Specialization. A progress report from Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies, and an update from the Strategic Plan Theme Group on Outstanding Academic Programming was also considered. Next meeting is March 4, as the February 11 meeting was canceled.

English Language Proficiency Working Group

Responsibilities: Advises the Provost and his Special Advisor on English Language Competency on strategies to implement the recommendations of the Stubleby Report on English Language Proficiency.

Synopsis: I was unable to attend the January 20 meeting due to travelling.

Provost's Advisory Committee on Scheduling

Responsibilities: Advises the Provost and the Registrar's Office on systems and business practices related to implementation of a new course timetabling software

Synopsis: This committee has not met since our last Council meeting and no future meetings have been scheduled, at this time.

Copyright Advisory Committee

Responsibilities: Advises the Provost and Library to promote and ensure copyright compliance within the university

Synopsis: This committee has not met since our last Council meeting and no future meetings have been scheduled, at this time, as the February 3 meeting has been canceled.

3.0 External Activities

3.1 Municipal/Regional-level

Town & Gown Steering Committee, City of Waterloo

Responsibilities: Bring together a smaller group of municipal stakeholders to assist with direction-setting for the broader Town & Gown Committee.

Synopsis: At the January 15 meeting, the Committee discussed the creation of two working groups one on Student Housing and one on Fall Welcome Programs. The terms of reference were later circulated by email and subsequently approved at the broader Town & Gown Committee.

Town & Gown Committee, City of Waterloo

Responsibilities: Represent UW students to all of the stakeholders involved in the Town & Gown Association, bring forward student concerns, and identify opportunities for integration in the community

Synopsis: I was unable to attend the January 28, meeting, however at this Committee two working groups, one on Student Housing and one on Fall Welcome Programs, were struck. Next meeting is March 25.

3.2 Provincial-level

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)

Responsibilities: Represent UW students to the provincial government through an alliance of like-minded undergraduate student associations. For more information on OUSA visit: www.ousa.ca.

Synopsis: No updates.

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Steering Committee

Responsibilities: Represent UW undergraduate students to OUSA and serve the OUSA Steering Committee as Secretary of the Corporation.

Synopsis: At the January 9 meeting, we discussed our campus roundtable series, pre-budget submission recommendations, selection dates for upcoming events, and some policies that are working their way through the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities. The date of the next General Assembly is March 28-30 to be held at Queen's. The policy papers to be discussed are International Students, Aboriginal Students, System Growth, and a small update to Online Learning.

3.3 Federal-level

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

Responsibilities: Represent UW students to the federal government through an alliance of like-minded undergraduate, graduate, college, and polytechnic student associations from across Canada. For more information on CASA visit: www.casa-acae.com.

Synopsis: On January 29, there was a Town Hall to discuss an upcoming advocacy campaign that the National Advocacy Team would like to organize. Sadly, there were only about 50% of the members in attendance, and several of those had assigned proxies to other members in attendance. Feds will not be participating in the "Wall of

Debt” Campaign due to lack of time and other campaigns (such as OUSA) that we would like to participate in.

4.0 Meetings with Decision-makers

4.1 University-level:

Rocco Fondacaro, Director of Student & Faculty Relations, CECA

- Rocco and I meet weekly to keep up-to-speed on any new developments in CECA.

Chris Read, Beth Jewkes, Mario Coniglio, Jenn Kieffer, Robbie Henderson, Coleen Even, Natasha Pozega

- January 14 and January 28 the working group on a new ancillary fee agreement met.

Peggy Jarvie, Executive Director, CECA

- On January 15, Peggy and I met for lunch to discuss the co-op fee and celebrations for the paying off of the student contribution to the Tatham Centre.

Pam Charbonneau, Director of Student Success Office

- On January 24, Pam and I met to discuss some outstanding items as well as a plan a meeting between all of the Directors of the SSO and Feds to discuss future directions.

Beth Bohnert, Tasha Glover, Marta Bailey, Maryam Shahtaheeri, Robbie Henderson

- On January 30, communications staff from the Registrar’s Office and the Graduate Studies’ Office met to discuss the effectiveness of communication.

4.2 Municipal/Regional-level:

No meetings to report.

4.3 Provincial-level:

No meetings to report.

4.4 Federal-level:

No meetings to report.

4.5 Other:

Robbie Henderson & Coleen Even, Graduate Students Association

- Robbi, Coleen, Natasha and I have met on numerous occasions (January 13, 21, 28) to prepare documentation for the ancillary fee working group.

5.0 Recent Announcements

Announcements:

- Provincial government funding for online learning consortium development and a course development fund
- Expansion of eligibility of the 30-Off Ontario Tuition Grant for co-op students who meet other eligibility requirements in their fifth year of student